

TEACCH Autism Program
Basics of Structured TEACCHing Training

Problem Solving in the Community – NATHAN

Nathan is a 5 year-old boy with an autism spectrum disorder. He has exceptional verbal skills and has been described as hyperlexic; he is already reading words well. However, his language is somewhat repetitive, particularly when discussing topics of special interests (e.g., Toy Story). Despite his strong phonetic skills, he seems to respond better to visuals that include both a word and a picture.

It is important for Nathan to be prepared for an experience with a plan for what he will be doing. He has developed some extremely limited routines such as driving certain routes and eating his meals a certain way. Additionally, he is focused on rules and insists that everyone follows the rules as he understands them.

You are taking Nathan to go swimming at the YMCA, which has both a pool and a water park. According to his parents, Nathan enjoys swimming but often has trouble recognizing personal boundaries and where he is in space; this can lead to behaviors that are disruptive, such as splashing, grabbing, or kicking others, or simply being too close to people in the pool or water area.

Please discuss the systems that you think Nathan needs to have in place in order to accomplish this outing successfully. Then, design a visual system that allows him to know where he is going, what he is going to do during the outing, and when he will return home. Also, please design an intervention for teaching him how to approach other children more appropriately.